NGOs or professional bodies may be identified as coordinating agencies.

Conference on Forestry Forum for Developing Countries

1595. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 3-day ministerial conference of the forestry forum for developing countries was held in Delhi on the 3.9.93;

(b) if so, what are the countries who have participated in the conference;

(c) whether any declaration on forests was declared in the conference;

(d) if so, what were the decisions taken in the conference; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement the suggestions made in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The first ministerial conference of the Forestry Forum for Developing Countries (FFDC) was held in New Delhi from 1st to 3rd September 1993.

(b) The list of countries participating in the conference is laid before the house as Statement-I (See below)

(c) The deliberations in the FFDC, which was held at and India's initiative, centered around the sustainable.

(d) management of forests in accordance with the Nonlegally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a global Consensus on the Management, conservation and Sustainable development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principles) agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. In particular, issues related to the provision of new and additional financial resources, including, through a restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF), access to technologies, support to education, training and extension initiatives, etc., were highlighted. At the end of the Conference, the Delhi Declaration on Forests was issued. The Declaration is given in Statement-II (See below).

(e) Action has been initiated to request the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to take steps for the implementation of the Delhi Declaration and keep the FFDC countries informed. This is perceived as a necessary condition to a review by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) which is proposed to be held in 1995. In addition, a mamorandum of Understanding (MOU) on forestry issues has been signed between India and the UK which takes note of the Delhi Declaration on Forests and lays down principles for the two countries to work together to promote the sustainable management of forests according to the Forest Principles. The MOU has a provision for jointly holding an international workshop which would discuss issues concerning sustainable managment of forests and would provide inputs making the review by the CSD in 1995 useful and productive.

The Commonwealth countries are also being kept informed of the actions that are being taken and are contemplated to take forward the Delhi Declaration on Forets issued by the FFDC.

Statement-I

List of Countries represented at FFDC

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Bhutan
4. Brazil
5. Burundi
6. Cambodia
7. Columbia
8. China
9. Cuba
10. Egypt

11. Ghana
12. Indonesia
13. Iran
14. Kenya
15. DPR Korea
16. Lesotho
17. Malawi
18. Malaysia
19. Mauritius
20. Mozambique
21. Nepal
22. Nigeria
23. Oman
24. Peru
25. Qatar
26. Saudi Arabia
27. Senegal
28. Sri Lanka
29. Sudan
30. Thiland
31. Uganda
32. United Arab Emirates
33. Yemen
34. Zaire
35. Zambia
36. Zimbabwe

Countries participating as observers at FFDC

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Balgaria
4. Canada
5. Finland
6. Germany
7. Italy
8. Netherlands
9. Sweden
10. United Kingdon
11. United States of America
12. France
13. Yugoslavia

Statement-II

FIRST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE FORESTRY FORUM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (FFDC)

September 1—3, 1993, New Delhi, India

THE DELHI DECLARATION OF FORESTS

We, the participants of the Ministerial Conference of the Forestry Forum for Developing Countries (FFDC) held in New Delhi, India, 1—3 September, 1993, taking note of the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All types of Forests agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, in June 1992, hereinafter called the Forest Principles, call upon the international community to facilitate and support the effective implementation of these Principles by:

—acknowledging that forest resources are in inalienable national resources;

—reiterating that sovereign countries are responsible for choosing between the various multiple uses of their forest resources in accordance with their national policies priorities and strategies;

—reiterating that the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet development and environmental needs of present and future generations;

—considering that natural ecosystems and species have intrinsic value, and that the underlying pressures on biological diversity are directly linked to current patterns of world consumption;

—noting that supportive and open international economic and trade system would lead to economic growth and sustainable development and use of forest resoruces;

—noting that the international community has called for preparation of National Forestry Action Programmes to develop national responses;

—Call upon the national governments, international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as others concerned with sustainable development of forests to undertake action to develop, enhance and strengthen national capacity by;

—Augmenting on-going efforts to increase the area and productivity of forests;

—Seeking and adopting options for

sustainable alternative forms of employment opportunities to people dependent on forests;

—Recognising the importance of the involvement of people at the local level in conservation, management and sustainable development of forest resources;

—Supporting education, training and extension initiatives and assured access to technology through international cooperation to strengthen national capability for forest management;

—Determining methodologies for the economic valuation of goods and services provided, by forests, including, *inter-alia* traditional knowledge and technologies biological, diversity, segue-stration of carbon other ecological process; and the foregone opportunity costs;

—Increasing financial assistance provided by the developed countries and international organisations, including a restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF), to sustain investment in the forestry sector in developing countries, within a given time frame through transparent mechanisms, to assist and meet the incremental costs incurred to implement sustainable development;

—Facilitating open and free international trade in forest products through removal of unilateral and discriminatory measures that impede market access, while ensuring that the sustainability criteria on forest management is equitably applied to all types of timber.

In order to ensure productivity discussion in the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995 on forest issues, we deem it necessary to address immediately the provision of new and additional financial resources and access to technologies by developing countries to enable them to implement effectively the Forest Principles, in accordance with the relevant principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. For this purpose, the Commission on Sustainable Development at its next session should identify an appropriate mechanism within the United Nations system.

We believe that in making these proposals the Delhi Declaration is a direct follow up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and another step forward towards the regreening of the earth.

Indo-UK agreement on forestry

1596. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and UK have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on forestry;

(b) if so, whether the Indo-UK Agreement on forestry for promoting the forestry principles finalised at UNCED in Rio last year;

(c) if so, the details of the Agreement; and

(d) to what extent UK has agreed to help and assist Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) India and the United Kingdom have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on forestry issues on 13th September, 1993. This MOU recognizes the importance of the Non-legally binding Forest Principles and the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing these Principles. The MOU also recognizes the position taken by several developing countries on forestry issues and reflected in the Delhi Declaration on Forests issues by the First Ministerial Conference of the Forestry Forum of Developing Countries on 3rd September, 1993. India and the UK are presently engaged in implementing the MOU, especially the clauses related to the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of forestry issues in 1995, and the possibilities of increased bilateral cooperation.